

Area of Interest	Question	Response	Date
Application	Re Congressional districts to list on the Summary Page, Project Location: If the project will extend throughout the Great Lakes Basin, which Congressional districts should we list? (Our thought is to list the Congressional districts of each of the six subawardees proposed in our application.)	It would be acceptable to state that the project will extend throughout the Great Lakes Basin, including all Great Lakes Congressional Districts, then state that you are going to list the Congressional districts of the subawardees and list them.	7/17/2014
Application	This question is regarding the Narrative Proposal Summary Information Page, Project Location: If the project area being addressed crosses county boundaries and congressional districts, should all be listed? Is it acceptable to use one long/lat coordinate as well as the zip code for a central point?	Yes. All should be listed. Using a central point for the long/lat coordinate and zip code is acceptable.	7/17/2014
Application	Should projects considered be from the individual submitting the project or from the agency employing that individual?	The application must be submitted by an eligible applicant. Individuals are not eligible applicants.	7/17/2014
Application	What do you need with regard to Other Attachments Form - Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement?	If your budget includes indirect costs and if you have a current indirect cost rate agreement, attach it. If you are selected for a federal grant, the indirect cost rate agreement can be negotiated (with your cognizant federal agency or with EPA) after that selection or after the award is made; however, a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement will be required before you may charge any indirect costs to a grant. If you do not have a current agreement or if you will have no indirect costs to charge to an award, attach nothing here.	7/17/2014
Application	What would you like for Other Attachments Form - Meetings/Conferences/Workshops?	If you plan to host meetings, conferences, or workshops as part of your grant project, attach a document with the the information requested in RFA Appendix I, item 12. If meetings, conferences, and/or workshops are not part of your project, attach nothing here.	7/17/2014
Application	Where do we submit our letters of support? Are they required?	Attach the letter of support as part of your application package. See item 11 of the Application materials listed in Appendix II. Letters of support can be helpful to demonstrate commitments and partnerships. A letter of support is not required.	7/17/2014
Application	We are proposing a stream restoration which would be considered construction. However the Budget Form in the Application packet only says non-construction. a. What should we do? Just create our own spreadsheet? b. Also where do we find this information that is on the budget sheet: Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number	a. These are considered non-construction projects. Fill in the existgng budget form. B. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number is on the first page of the RFA: 66.469 for the Great Lakes Program	7/17/2014
Application	You have listed very specific naming conventions for the grants.gov file and the Application Filing Name. What if we are submitting more than one proposal under one of the individual grant categories? Should we distinguish between the file names in some way?	Please distinguish between the file names. Do not send two different files with the same name.	7/17/2014

Application	We are involved in a collaborative proposal, which will be submitted for funding assistance through the GLRI program. What is the most appropriate physical address and person or groups to use in our letter of support for the proposal?	Letters of support may be addressed to the applicant and attached to the application (see item 11 of Attachment II). It is also acceptable for such letters to be addressed to the Director of the Great Lakes National Program Office, so long as they are attached to the application.	7/17/2014
Application	Will the authorized signature required on the Preaward Compliance Review Report form in the Grants.gov application be assumed upon the Grants.gov submission? If not, are we required to print the form, sign it and upload it as .pdf in the "other attachments"?	You do not need to separately print and sign the form. The grants.gov help line tells us that by including those forms in the application package that it is covered by the electronic signature of your authorized official representative. See item 21 of the SF424 which states: By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award...	7/17/2014
Application	Can an agency apply for 2 separate grants in a category if each grant is separately under the per grant maximum, but the total of the 2 grants is more than that maximum amount (e.g., two applications each requesting \$635,000 in the Invasive Species Control category)?	Yes	7/17/2014
Application	Letters of Support - Are you limiting these to letters of commitment or also encouraging letters of general support as well?	EPA will consider letters of support which are germane to the requirements and/or criteria of the RFA. For example, a letter of support may indicate a commitment for voluntary cost match or other leveraging. A letter of support may also indicate the commitment of a proposed subaward recipient to accept a subaward. These are just two of the possibilities.	7/17/2014
Application	If we have a current GLRI grant open with an extension are we still able to apply without having it count against us?	You may still apply. See the note on page 31 of the RFA regarding the possibility for a reduction of an applicant's score if funds "have not been expended expeditiously as of the date of the applicant's submission without adequate explanation."	8/4/2014
Application	How do applicants work around the scheduled maintenance outage for <a href="http://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a> from August 23 to August 25?	The due date for applications has been extended to 11:59 p.m. EDT (10:59 p.m. CDT), Wednesday, August 27, 2014.	8/4/2014
Application	Would you repeat the due date of AIS apps?	All applications are due 11:59 p.m. EDT (10:59 p.m. CDT), Wednesday, August 27, 2014.	8/4/2014
Application	Application Review and Selection Process: Are applications with lead organizations located in one of the Great Lakes states more likely to get funded than applications with lead organizations NOT located in one of the Great Lakes states?	EPA does not have a preference for where the lead agency is located, provided the organization meets the eligibility requirements of the RFA and the work will be conducted within the Great Lakes basin.	8/4/2014
Application	Where can I find online grant application forms? I get an error message from <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm">http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm</a>	The issue has been reported and headquarters is working to resolve it. You can instead download the forms from: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/contents.htm">http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/contents.htm</a>	8/26/2014
Attachments	Are webinars considered to be meetings/conferences/workshops for which information should be provided in Attachment 12?	EPA would not define your webinar as a meeting, conference or workshop. We would define a webinar as a Technical Assistance Forum.	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	Can you briefly mention where subawards go in the actual budget pages. There only appear to be contractual spaces.	Identify subawards under "Other."	7/17/2014

Contracts and Subawards	Are universities considered vendors or sub recipients?	Universities are generally considered to be sub-recipients when universities are carrying out research and educational activities. However, if a university were providing a recipient with commercial services such as accounting or project management the university EPA would consider the university to be a vendor.	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	Can sole source justifications be cleared with contract specialists before submittal?	There will not be an opportunity to clear sole source justifications before submittal. You may include a brief description of why a sole source justification would apply. But remember that most services are available competitively on the open market.	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	Do Contractors need to be selected prior to submission of the application? We were planning to wait to receive the funds and then put projects out for competitive bid. Is this not appropriate?	No, EPA does not require applicants to select contractors prior to submitting applications and does not encourage applicants to do so. It is entirely appropriate to wait until funds are received to put projects out for competitive bid. Applicants who choose to select contractors in advance should indicate that the selection was done in conformance with the competitive procurement procedures of 40 CFR Parts 30 and 31.	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	Does that mean you do not need to name the contractor?	Yes. Provisions incorporated by reference provide that "Applicants are not required to identify subawardees/subgrantees and/or contractors (including consultants) in their application." See: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/solicitation_provisions.htm#Contracts_subawards">http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/solicitation_provisions.htm#Contracts_subawards</a>	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	If I have identified a need for contracting services, but have not identified a contractor, do I need to state that I will open the contractor selection process to an open bid procedure?	Absent an indication to the contrary, we will assume that you will compete unidentified contracts in accordance with the procurement provisions of the regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate.	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	University can be named as subawardee directly without competition, right?	Correct, Universities are generally considered to be sub-recipients when universities are carrying out research and educational activities. EPA's regulations for grants to non-profit and university grantees are found at 40 CFR Part 30 and the agency's regulations for grants to units of government are at 40 CFR Part 31. These regulations implement separate OMB "common rules". Neither regulation requires that recipients make subawards or subgrants competitively. However, if a university were providing a recipient with commercial services such as accounting or project management the university EPA would consider the university to be a vendor and recipients must compete vendor contracts.	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	What's the difference between a subaward and a coalition?	See page 15 for the definition of coalition. A subaward is the granting mechanism by the member of the coalition which received the EPA grant gives a subaward to another member of the coalition. Please note that the subaward must be a proper one rather than a means of acquiring commercially available goods and services without competition.	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	Are subawards identified as "contractors" on the budget page?	No. Enter them as "Other."	7/17/2014

Contracts and Subawards	Will a sub-awardees competition process negatively affect the "shovel ready" evaluation?	The need for a subaward competition process will be considered in evaluations. However, EPA is also aware that such a process need not be a lengthy, time consuming process.	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	Can you give a subaward example?	One university on a joint project will be the lead and apply for funding, with the expressed intention of giving a subaward to its partner university.	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	If a state agency works with a University entity for professional services (unique expertise and support for project) (or vice versa) can a sub award be used?	Universities are generally considered to be sub-recipients when universities are carrying out research and educational activities. However, if a university were providing a recipient with commercial services such as accounting or project management the university EPA would consider the university to be a vendor.	7/17/2014
Contracts and Subawards	Is the term subaward equivalent to subgrant?	The term "subaward" refers to subgrants.	8/4/2014
Contracts and Subawards	What if that applicant has an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract with a consultant? Does a new competition have to be held for this grant?	Provided that the proposed activities are within the scope of a previously competed contract, a new competition is not necessary.	8/19/2014
Contracts and Subawards	Can Applicants apply for construction only, and then use consultant of their choice without asking for grant monies for consultant work?	Any contracts included in the budget as federal funds or match should be competed pursuant to grant regulations covering procurement at 40 CFR Parts 30.40 through 30.48 and 40 CFR Part 31.36. Costs incurred for a consultant that was not selected this way are not eligible and cannot be included in their application budget under either the federal share or match, though they may be considered as a form of leveraging. Note that in filling out the SF424B, that for this program the costs you are referring to as "construction" would be entered as "contractual" and not as "construction."	8/26/2014
Eligibility	Can a registered Canadian charity working on Great Lakes restoration initiatives submit an application? We have the equivalent of 501(c)3 status. The project in mind would benefit all inhabitants, flora and fauna of the Great Lakes, regardless of border.	No. Pursuant to RFA Section III, foreign organizations and governments are not eligible.	7/17/2014
Eligibility	The 2014 RFA indicates that Green Infrastructure projects conducted by a municipality on the Great Lakes shoreline is an ineligible activity. Does this mean that no shoreline community can apply for a grant? Does this mean that no project will be funded in communities on the Great Lakes shoreline? Is this for all Great Lakes Shoreline communities regardless of population?	Municipalities directly located on the shore of a Great Lake or a Great Lake connecting channel are ineligible to conduct "green infrastructure" projects under this grant offering; however, shoreline communities can apply for other types of grants. This restriction for this grant offering applies regardless of population. See <a href="http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/shoreline/">www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/shoreline/</a> for a separate green infrastructure grant opportunity for shoreline cities having a population greater than 25,000 and less than 50,000. Last year, EPA awarded Shoreline Cities Grants totaling just under \$7 million to	7/24/2014

Eligibility	In light of the second bullet on page 16, is a green infrastructure project located in a park that is tributary to the Rouge River eligible for funding under Category B (Watershed Plan Implementation). The park is located within the City of Detroit. The City would not be applying for the grant, a non-profit organization would be.	If the project met the other requirements of the RFA, then so long as it is conducted by the non-profit organization, and not "a municipality directly located on the shore of a Great Lake or a Great Lakes connecting channel," the project would be eligible.	7/24/2014
Eligibility	My question pertains to the list of 'ineligible activities' listed in the RFA Section III on page 16. The second bullet says that GI projects in municipalities along the Great Lakes shoreline are not eligible. This seems rather broad and exclusive of a lot of areas along the Great Lakes. I understand that the Great Lakes Shoreline Cities grant package was just released that provides GI project funding for shoreline cities, however, it is restricted to populations between 25,000-50,000.	The RFA does exclude green infrastructure projects conducted by <u>any</u> municipality if that municipality is directly located on the shore of a Great Lake or a Great Lakes connecting channel. Shoreline cities having populations of at least 50,000 were invited to apply for green infrastructure grants in FY 2013. Shoreline cities having populations less than 50,000 and greater than or equal to 25,000 were invited to apply for green infrastructure grants this year. Decisions have yet to be made about future funding	7/25/2014
Eligibility	Green infrastructure projects conducted by a municipality if that municipality is directly located on the shore of a Great Lake or a Great Lakes connecting channel are ineligible. What if it's not a project conducted BY a municipality, but instead conducted by an NGO on not public land (church, school, etc.)?	Such a project could be eligible, provided it meets the other requirements of the RFA.	7/25/2014
Eligibility	Can units of the National Park Service apply for GLRI grants under the current RFA? If not how are the projects listed on the GLRI web site indicating NPS-GLRI projects structured?	No. Eligibility is limited to non-federal governmental entities pursuant to the Applicant Eligibility description on RFA page 15. Projects on the glri.us website that indicate the National Park Service as the recipient are the product of a planning and budgeting process that is separate from EPA's competitive grant process.	7/25/2014
Eligibility	Can an organization receive funding under EPA's RFA to do work on national park lands?	No. The National Park Service is not eligible to apply for funding under EPA's RFA. In addition, a separate organization, such as a park district, cannot be funded under EPA's RFA for work that would be done on National Park Service land.	7/30/2014

Eligibility	The RFA states that green infrastructure projects conducted by "municipalities" that are directly located on a Great Lake or a Great Lakes connecting channel will not be eligible for funding. Would a project proposed by a "county" located on a Great Lake be eligible?	Such a project could be eligible so long as it is not "conducted by a municipality... directly located on the shore of a Great Lakes or a Great Lakes connecting channel" and it meets the other requirements of the RFA.	8/4/2014
Eligibility	<p>Can you qualify eligible/ineligible GI projects language from Page 16 in the RFA? The first bullet indicates that traditional water/wastewater infrastructure projects are ineligible but the following types are NOT excluded as ineligible, (i) Green infrastructure or (ii) environmentally innovative solutions to address difficult water protection challenges but the next bullet states that: "Green infrastructure" projects conducted by a municipality if that municipality if located on the shore of a Great Lake are INELIGIBLE.</p> <p>Can you help me understand those distinctions? Can I apply for a GI project on behalf of the City, which is located on the shore of Lake Michigan, or would I only be able to apply for a GI project on behalf of our 501(c)3 since the municipality is located on the shore of a Great Lake?</p>	As you may know, EPA is also offering funding to cities through the Great Lakes Shoreline Cities grant offering. That funding is specifically for cities with land that touches a Great Lake or connecting channel (as defined in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement). To avoid duplication of efforts and funding, municipalities directly located on the shore of a Great Lakes or a Great Lakes connecting channel cannot apply for both funding opportunities. Thus, a green infrastructure project conducted by a city directly located on the shore of Lake Michigan would not be eligible. A green infrastructure project conducted by a 501(c)3 organization, not the city, would be eligible provided it met the other eligibility requirements of the RFA.	8/4/2014
Eligibility	Are there any areas on algal toxins eligible?	None of the areas of the RFA are specific to algal toxins.	8/4/2014
Eligibility	Can you clarify what you mean by shoreline "municipality". In other words is a County with Great Lakes shoreline ineligible for GI project under this RFA?	Such a project could be eligible so long as it is not "conducted by a municipality... directly located on the shore of a Great Lakes or a Great Lakes connecting channel" and it meets the other requirements of the RFA.	8/4/2014
Eligibility	Why are experiential learning opportunities that make a project proposal more competitive limited to opportunities for K-12 students? Why aren't undergraduate students also included as a preferred category of students engaged in experiential learning focused on Great Lakes restoration?	<p>Experiential learning opportunities are a new component to this grant program. Pending the experience of this year's funding activities, EPA could consider expanding eligibility of these activities in future RFAs.</p> <p>Note: Although the questioner asked why only K-12 students are eligible, it is only grades 6-12 that are eligible.</p>	8/4/2014

Eligibility	Is it okay if the application is for part of a bigger project? (a long-term project that has environmental and clean tech goals, and this would be able to fulfill a portion of it)	A proposal can be a component of a larger project providing all elements of the proposed work fit within the RFA guidelines.	8/4/2014
Eligibility	Green infrastructure projects "conducted by a municipality if that municipality is directly located on the shore of a Great Lake" is ineligible. Could a regional agency conduct a green infrastructure project on a Great Lake shore?	Such a project could be eligible so long as it is not "conducted by a municipality... directly located on the shore of a Great Lakes or a Great Lakes connecting channel" and it meets the other requirements of the RFA.	8/4/2014
Eligibility	Under which category could a green infrastructure project in the Lower Fox River Watershed fall under if not watershed management?	That project would not be eligible this year under this RFA.	8/4/2014
Eligibility	Are projects on private land eligible?	It could be eligible, provided it and the applicant met the requirements of the RFA. A project would not be ineligible just because it is conducted on private land.	8/4/2014
Eligibility	What was the reasoning behind deeming green infrastructure by municipalities directly on the Great Lakes or a connecting channel ineligible?	Municipalities directly located on the shore of a Great Lake or a Great Lake connecting channel are ineligible to conduct "green infrastructure" projects under this grant offering; however, shoreline communities can apply for other types of grants. This restriction for this grant offering applies regardless of population. See <a href="http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/shoreline/">www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/shoreline/</a> for a separate green infrastructure grant opportunity for shoreline cities having a population greater than 25,000 and less than 50,000. Last year, EPA awarded Shoreline Cities Grants totaling just under \$7 million to 16 cities with populations greater than 50,000.	8/13/2014
Eligibility	Are incentives to farmers to install best management practices an allowable expense under Category LC 2?	Such a project could be eligible if it met the requirements of the RFA, including, applicable eligibility requirements for Watershed Management projects (see RFA page	8/13/2014
Eligibility	Is this grant available for communities without AOC designation?	Yes.	8/13/2014

Eligibility	Can GLRI funds be used to pay all costs for a two-stage ditch?	Costs for a two-stage ditch could be eligible. For the Watershed category, it would need to meet the eligibility requirements on page 10, including a requirement that the project will implement best management practices and management measures contained in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters. For the Sediment Reduction category, it would need to meet the eligibility requirements on page 12, including demonstrations of how the project will (i) accelerate reductions of sediment and associated nutrient loadings and (ii) demonstrate permanency of project outputs following completion of activities.	8/13/2014
Eligibility	Can a farmer receive a one time payment for having a two- stage ditch plus a grass buffer located on his/her land. For example \$1000/acre for 8 acres if a 5000 ft long two-stage ditch is constructed with two 15 ft benches plus a 20 ft wide grass buffer on each side between the ditch and fields (total of 70 ft times 5000 ft divided by 4350 ft <sup>2</sup> = about 8 acres)	Such a project could be eligible if it met the requirements of the RFA, including, applicable eligibility requirements for Watershed Management projects (see RFA pages 10-11) or Sediment Reduction projects (see RFA page 12). Note that If the recipient considers the farmer to be a subgrantee, then the farmer could draw upon the subaward as payment for his/her expenses; however the farmer would be subject to the procurement requirements as well as other provisions in the grant regulations. On the other hand, if the recipient considers the farmer to be a training "program participant" under 2 CFR Part 230, Appendix B, Item 33 the recipient could simply reimburse the farmer with payments for expenses, provided the farmer provides documentation of his/her expenses.	8/13/2014
Eligibility	Regarding the 2014 RFA, are you specifically looking for project-based applications, or may applications for continuing education programs be considered if they fall within one of the three categories listed?	A variety of activities may be eligible under each of the categories. The applicant should review the outputs and outcomes sections under each category to ensure their project fits within the RFA parameters. See the Invasive Species and Watershed Management sections of the Q&As for answers to questions asked about education activities specific to those funding categories.	8/13/2014
Eligibility	From what I understand projects on detection/sensing/ monitoring and treatment of cyanotoxins are not eligible. Are all topics related to cyanotoxins not eligible?	Projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the RFA. A project pertaining to cyanotoxins in the Watershed Management category could only be eligible if it met the eligibility requirements on page 10, including a requirement that the project will implement best management practices and management measures contained in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section	8/19/2014



Eligibility	Are projects run by non-profit agencies on USFS lands ineligible?	Unless there were a statutory provision that allowed work on USFS lands to be done through an EPA grant, such projects are not eligible. We are not aware of such a statutory provision. USFS does get some GLRI funding directly from EPA and may use that funding for projects on USFS lands.	8/19/2014
Eligibility	Green infrastructure projects: will alliances of watersheds that have municipalities as members be eligible?	The entity that submits an application for a green infrastructure project must meet the eligibility requirements on RFA pages 15 -16. If the entity was not itself a municipality, but consisted of an alliance that included municipalities, the entity could be eligible. However, the activity would be ineligible if: (i) that entity were a municipality directly located on the shore of a Great Lake or a Great Lakes connecting channel or (ii) that entity were to issue a subaward to a municipality directly located on the shore of a Great Lake or a Great Lakes connecting channel.	8/26/2014
General	Can we get a list of past funded projects?	You can see the projects funded in the last four years from: <a href="http://greatlakesrestoration.us/projects.html">http://greatlakesrestoration.us/projects.html</a>	7/17/2014
General	I received an EPA GLRI award for a previous year. We are looking to continue the same project. Is this a renewal or continuation, or are these terms synonymous?	Unless you received an incremental award in a previous year, you must submit a new application to compete for EPA's FY 2014 funding. If your project is selected for an award, then, for convenience, EPA may work with you to amend your previous award.	7/17/2014
General	I take it that "should" is not the same as "must"?	"Should" indicates suggestions and expectations. "Must" indicates something that is required. If something "must" be included, but is not, then the application may be ineligible.	7/17/2014
General	Is there an overhead limitation for awards to universities?	The negotiated indirect cost rate agreement with the cognizant federal agency would determine the rate that applies.	7/17/2014
General	What is required for "documentation supporting your quarterly rate of expenditure"?	A statement in the Proposal workplan by the applicant in which the applicant explains its expenditure rate.	7/17/2014
General	Are sub-grantees subject to federal audit requirements?	Direct recipients of Federal funds who expend more than \$500,000 in any given year are required to have an A-133 single audit. Sub-recipients are not held to this standard, but it is the job of the direct recipient to monitor their sub-recipients and hold them accountable to Federal standards and guidelines.  If the sub-recipient happens to also be a direct recipient of Federal funds and expends more than \$500,000 in any year, they would be required to undergo an A-133 single audit.	7/17/2014
General	If we are partnering with an entity, but not through contract or sub-award, can we still explain this expertise in the programmatic capability section?	EPA will evaluate the information you provide in accordance with the provisions of the RFA.	7/17/2014

General	Can match or cost-share be from another federal source?	No.	7/17/2014
General	What does "Quarterly rate of expenditure" mean? Do you want to know the % of the total award spent at the end of each quarter of the award? Or the % of the total award spent as of the date of submission?	We are looking for an explanation regarding the % of the total award spent at the end of each quarter of the award.	7/17/2014
General	What is the area of geographic eligibility for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative?	Geographic eligibility is described on RFA page 15. Proposed projects must ... protect, enhance, and/or restore the Great Lakes, including projects impacting connecting	7/17/2014
General	Does EPA have a specific definition of "civilian conservation corps model?" Are there specific criteria that would qualify an activity as being in-line with a CCC model?	EPA does not have a specific definition. In keeping with the historical roots of the civilian conservation corps, such a model would generally involve a substantial portion of the project consisting of natural resource conservation work conducted in a manner that improves morale, increases employment, enhances employability, produces tangible results, and leads to greater public awareness and appreciation of the environment.	7/30/2014
General	How do I know I am working from the right version of the RFA?	The upper right corner identifies the document as Modified July 30, 2014.	8/4/2014
General	The RFP says 105 possible points but the application review section only adds up to 100 points. What are the other 5 points?	100 points are possible. This typo has been corrected in the modified RFA that has been posted to the website.	8/4/2014
General	By shovel ready, does the permit have to already be secured?	It is not required that permits already be secured. The Project Summary and Approach <del>section should discuss what permits are needed and your plan for securing permits if</del>	8/4/2014
General	Prioritization of projects hydrologically connected to Great Lakes (within <del>drainage</del> vs direct drainage to a Great Lake?	RFA Section V.A.1 states that applicants may score higher on the Project Summary and <del>Approach criterion to the extent they demonstrate a clear, rather than a weak</del>	8/4/2014
General	Multiple small scale projects priority vs larger projects?	Both are eligible. The RFA does not state a priority.	8/4/2014
General	Dam removal prioritization or potential concerns from grantor?	This question needs to be clarified before we can provide a response.	8/4/2014
General	Each Category, 1.A, 1.B, and 1.C all have conflicting information about required end dates: is it September 30 2016, 2017, and 2019, respectively(as listed in the category descriptions), or December 30, 2016,2017, or 2019 (as listed section II. Award Information)?	The conflict has been corrected in the modified RFA. The end dates for each category are as follows: Invasive Species: December 30, 2016 Watershed Management Implementation: December 30, 2017 Sediment Reduction Projects in Priority Watersheds: December 30, 2019.	8/4/2014

General	Is the Historical Great Lakes Basin equivalent to the watershed?	The description of eligible activities on page 15 of the RFA states that projects "must also either: (i) protect, enhance, and/or restore the Great Lakes, including projects impacting connecting waterways such as Lake St. Clair and the St. Lawrence River (at or upstream from the point at which the St. Lawrence River becomes the international boundary between Canada and the United States); or (ii) protect Great Lakes ecosystem health, including human health." The "historical Great Lakes Basin" is not always equivalent to the "watershed."	8/4/2014
General	Will you post all current questions from this webinar on the spreadsheet (those given answers verbally during webinar and those not answered but indicated will be answered on the spreadsheet)? It would be helpful to have today's questions that you answered verbally, at least the key ones, also captured in writing.	Answers to all questions asked during the webinar will be posted, including those that were answered verbally.	8/4/2014
General	Do you have cost estimates for the time and cost for Quality system documentation for use in budget?	The scope and cost of preparation for Quality System Documentation can vary widely by project. EPA does not have a general cost or time estimate. Projects that use existing environmental data or collect new environmental data will have 90 days from the receipt of their grant agreement to submit draft Quality System Documentation.	8/4/2014
General	When and where will the archived webinar be available?	The recorded webinar is linked to the 2014 RFA website ( <a href="http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2014rfa02/">http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2014rfa02/</a> )	8/4/2014
General	Will proposals be considered if they are less than the approximate award amounts mentioned in each category?	Proposals less than the stated maximums for each category will be considered. Applicants are encouraged to develop budgets that are consistent with the scope of their project.	8/4/2014
General	Can you define sub-contracting vs sub-awarding?	See the "Contracts and Subawards" provisions at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/solicitation_provisions.htm">http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/solicitation_provisions.htm</a>	8/4/2014
General	What is the CCC model you're referring to and how do you envision it being used in these proposals?	EPA does not have a specific definition. In keeping with the historical roots of the civilian conservation corps, such a model would generally involve a substantial portion	8/4/2014
General	If funds for the purchase of a vehicle is included in the budget/project, does the organization receiving the grant own the vehicle?	The title for any purchased equipment, including vehicles, will vest with the grant recipient subject to conditions in federal grant regulations 40 CFR 30.24 and 40 CFR 31.32. However, applicants should conduct a cost analysis to determine the least cost procurement method, which may include lease or rental of equipment, and should consider what procurement method is most appropriate for execution of their project and maintaining it into the future.	8/4/2014

General	How much match would be appropriate for a \$635,000 request? 50/50?	The RFA does not require applicants to provide match. Applicants are encouraged to provide whatever match is appropriate for their project.	8/4/2014
General	Can control work be done on private property as part of this grant as long as the owner has signed a waiver and the contractor has appropriate liability insurance?	Private individuals or for-profit companies are not eligible grant recipients; however, funding can support invasive species removal on private land as part of an overall control effort.	8/4/2014
General	How do we get listed as a company interested seeing which projects go out to competitive/solicitation for subcontractor/subgrants given we have solutions in place for water monitoring and feel we could add great value to these projects?	EPA does not maintain a list of projects going out for competitive solicitation.	8/4/2014
General	Where should we send in questions that were not addressed in the webinar?	All questions asked in the webinar will be answered and posted to the RFA website. Any other questions should be submitted through the comments form linked to the RFA	8/4/2014
General	If we have shovel ready GI projects and we have existing GI sites can we include invasive species control/site stewardship via CCC or experiential learning at the new and existing GI sites within a watershed plan implementation project?	Such projects could be eligible; however, applicants are to identify only one category per application (see page 20). Applicants may submit multiple proposals.	8/4/2014
General	Is the scoring criteria available?	The scoring criteria is outlined in section V. of the RFA, beginning on page 28.	8/4/2014
General	Is there a specific timeline for when projects must be completed?	The end dates for each category are as follows: Invasive Species: December 30, 2016 Watershed Management Implementation: December 30, 2017 Sediment Reduction Projects in Priority Watersheds: December 30, 2019.	8/4/2014
General	Are all three of the goals (sediment-reduction, etc) supposed to be met, or can only one of these be fulfilled?	Section IV.C.2.a.i on page 20 directs applicants to choose one from among the three RFA categories.	8/4/2014
General	Will projects whose impact is on a greater population be more likely to be funded? Will economic impacts (job creation, technologies implemented) as well as environmental also be considered?	Projects will be evaluated in accordance with the published criteria in the RFA.	8/4/2014
General	For the quality data within 90 days referred to from page 33, will the collection be funded from the grant as well?	Costs associated with data collection for quality assurance can be eligible costs.	8/4/2014
General	Regarding outputs - Great Lakes Action Plan I or II? Is II still draft?	Applicants should refer to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan 2010-2014. A link to the action plan is provided on page 1 of the RFA.	8/4/2014

General	What is a civilian conservation corps model?	EPA does not have a specific definition. In keeping with the historical roots of the civilian conservation corps, such a model would generally involve a substantial portion of the project consisting of natural resource conservation work conducted in a manner that improves morale, increases employment, enhances employability, produces tangible results, and leads to greater public awareness and appreciation of the environment.	8/4/2014
General	On page 16 under Ineligible Activities, it says "Green infrastructure projects conducted by a municipality if that municipality is directly located on the shore of a Great Lake or a Great Lake connecting channel". Are non-profits, and/or tribal communities eligible to apply for funding under category B if the proposed project is in a municipality that is directly located on a Great Lake, but the project itself, is not directly located on the shore of a Great Lake?	Such a project could be eligible so long as it is not "conducted by a municipality... directly located on the shore of a Great Lakes or a Great Lakes connecting channel" and it meets the other requirements of the RFA.	8/4/2014
General	Is there a typical % allowed for project management?	See RFA Section IV.C.2.c.1 on page 26. The rules for including management fees and similar charges are at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/solicitation_provisions.htm">http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/solicitation_provisions.htm</a> . There is no typical allowed %.	8/4/2014
General	Does NPS staff time count as match?	No. It may be a form of leveraging, but not match. See RFA pages 17-18.	8/4/2014
General	Are large-scale equipment purchases eligible for restoration projects (in example, a Marsh Master)?	Equipment purchases are eligible. The applicant should consider cost-effectiveness, execution of the project, maintenance of the project into the future, and any other relevant considerations when deciding on a procurement method, which may include purchase, rental, lease, borrowing, or some other arrangement. If equipment is purchased, disposition instructions are subject to conditions in federal grant regulations 40 CFR 30.24 and 40 CFR 31.32. Items with a market value less than \$5,000 will vest with the recipient.	8/13/2014

General	Do you anticipate funding being available next year for Category I.B. Watershed Management Implementation?	Funding priorities and categories have not been determined for any future GLRI competitive founding opportunities through EPA.	8/13/2014
General	What is the time frame for the match (cash and in-kind) we can use for an invasive species control grant?	Any proposed match would need to be included in the budget on forms 424 and 424a and would need to be provided within the proposed project period.	8/13/2014
General	On page seven of the RFA under the heading, "Categories of Funding Opportunities", it states that "Applicants must address one category. If they address more than one they will be rejected." Does this mean that a project which requires invasive species removal would be rejected under the watershed management implementation category, even if invasive species removal is one of the management actions listed within the nine-element plan approved for the watershed (invasive species removal is not representative of the majority of the cost or work required for this project, thus I believe the watershed management plan is the best category for this project)? Or does this imply that the project, applied for under watershed management implementation, would only be scored based upon the outputs and outcomes listed under that section?	This provision of the RFA means that you must choose 1 category to which you submit your application. You cannot submit the same application for the same project for us to evaluate in multiple categories. We will evaluate that project in accordance with the criteria for that one category.	8/13/2014
General	In the SF 424 A budget form, should Sections A&B be completed for each project year (if less than five years)? Or should we complete just one column for the overall budget?	Sections A and B are for the overall budget. Sections D and E are for providing projections of annual funding needs.	8/19/2014
General	The federal form won't accept my zip code.	The form may require a 9 digit zip code. If you do not have one, enter "0000".	8/19/2014

General	What is the hourly volunteer time match rate for GLRI proposals? (i.e. minimum wage?)	From OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements: Volunteer services furnished by professional and technical personnel, consultants, and other skilled and unskilled labor may be counted as cost sharing or matching if the service is an integral and necessary part of an approved project or program. Rates for volunteer services shall be consistent with those paid for similar work in the recipient's organization. In those instances in which the required skills are not found in the recipient organization, rates shall be consistent with those paid for similar work in the labor market in which the recipient competes for the kind of services involved. In either case, paid fringe benefits that are reasonable, allowable, and allocable may be included in the valuation.	8/19/2014
General	In light of the new Omni or "Super" Circular change (Section 200.331) in regard to subrecipient IDC Recovery, is it acceptable to include a 10% indirect cost rate in our subawards' budgets (those subawardees who do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement)?	The de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs can be used if the perspective recipient or subrecipient does not have a Federal negotiated indirect cost rate. The Omni Circular will go into effect December 26, 2014.	8/19/2014
General	Should I assume that we will have to submit a QAPP even if we aren't conducting a monitoring project?	It is hard to answer this question without knowing the specifics of the proposal. However per the RFA on p. 33, quality system documentation is required for grants involving the use or collection of environmental data.	8/26/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	Page 7 of the RFA indicates the end date for invasive species control projects should be no later than September 30, 2016, but page 14 indicates this date is no later than December 30, 2016. Which is the correct end date?	The information on page 14 is correct. Invasive Species Control projects should end no later than December 30, 2016.	7/21/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	<p>Our preserve encompasses 1,300 acres of habitat adjacent to the shore of Lake Michigan, much of it forested ridge and swale. Nearby is Point Beach State Forest, with nearly 3,000 acres. Together they constitute a major migratory bird stopover area.</p> <p>The swales are heavily populated with green and black ash. We are concerned about the future threat from the emerald ash borer, as we could lose a significant portion of the forest overstory which would hasten invasion by non-native plants reducing diversity and habitat quality, and increase runoff, affecting water quality. We would propose to plant (native species) to increase diversity to lessen the future impacts of EAB. I'm sure we would find several partners for such a project.</p> <p>Do you think such a project would be worthy of submittal?</p>	This project could be eligible, provided that it met the other requirements of the RFA. The Emerald Ash Borer is already in the Great Lakes. The project provides a proactive approach to controlling the Emerald Ash Borer by working in advance of its further spread to reduce host species.	8/4/2014

I.A. Invasive Species Control	Would educational projects, aimed at reducing the spread of aquatic invasives in the Great Lakes Basin, be eligible for funding under this category? If so, would this grant fund similar educational projects previously funded through the GLRI, but at different locations?	It is an eligible aspect of a project, but this funding category is focused on on-the-ground and in-the-water control actions. Projects MUST meet one of the outcomes of the funding category. Projects that are at different locations are not considered repetitions of previously funded GLRI projects.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	Is outreach and education considered a control measure and fundable under this RFA?	It is an eligible aspect of a project, but this funding category is focused on on-the-ground and in-the-water control actions. Projects MUST meet one of the outcomes of the funding category.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	In the phrase "previously-funded control activities", please explain previously funded by who.	The phrase "previously-funded control activities" refers to invasive species control activities previously funded by GLRI.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	Are projects focusing mainly on prevention eligible for funding under this RFA?	If a project is mainly focused on prevention but also has some control actions, it would be eligible; however, it would be unlikely to rank as highly as other projects that are focused on control. Projects MUST meet one of the outcomes of the funding category.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	Are invasive species monitoring activities ineligible under this RFA?	Monitoring activities may be funded if they support the implementation and assessment of the project's control effort; however, projects MUST meet one of the outcomes of the funding category.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	Is private land eligible for an invasive species removal project if that land is a conservation easement?	Private individuals or for-profit companies are not eligible grant recipients; however, funding can support invasive species removal on private land as part of an overall control effort. Land managers are often concerned about possible reinfestation of project sites from invasive species on neighboring private lands. Project funding can be used to proactively work with private land owners and may include funding for invasive species removal on private lands.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	For invasive species control applications can we ask for funding for work on sites both in and near the Lake Michigan watershed (NE IL)?	Yes. Note that projects may score higher on "Project Summary and Approach - 20 points" if they can demonstrate "A clear, rather than a weak, connection to protection and restoration of the Great Lakes themselves."	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	Could the installation of native plants and/or seeds be funded under the Invasive Species category?	Replanting of native species can be included as a component of a control project; however, projects MUST meet one of the outcomes of the funding category.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	AIS Control: Our project budget could be in the \$1M or \$600K range, depending on scope (how many objectives we include). Could we submit a project that includes both \$1M and \$600K budget scenarios? We're worried just submitting a \$1M budget will decrease our chances of funding as it sounds like only 2 projects at that budget level will be considered.	For consideration for both the medium and large awards, you must submit multiple proposals. The magnitude of the funding should be reflected in the scope of the project (for example, the number of acres controlled). Applications for the medium (less than or equal to \$635K) and large (greater than \$635 and up to \$1M) awards must be submitted separately and will be evaluated separately. Note that RFA Section II specifies that number of actual awards may differ from the estimates identified in Section I.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	AIS Control: Are projects for locations that were previously funded for control activities eligible, if a new specific type of control activity is used? The same species would be controlled.	Projects that use different techniques to address invasive species would not be considered a repetition of previously-funded GLRI control activities. The rationale for using different control techniques should be explained in the proposal.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	If an organization was funded through GLRI to control invasives at one site, can they receive funding to do same work but on another site?	Yes.	8/4/2014



I.A. Invasive Species Control	Will software app development funded under invasive species category? The app will help collect locations of invasive species from citizens.	Tool development can be a component of a control project funded under this category; however, projects MUST meet one of the outcomes of the funding category.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	If another agency in my area has been awarded an invasive control grant in the past (for a different site), can my municipality now apply for funds to eradicate the same species at different locations?	Yes.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	Would an extension of an Cooperative weed management area on new sites be considered to be repetitive?	The work on the new sites would not be considered repetitive.	8/4/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	We had a GLRI grant a few years ago for some invasive species control work in the same general region as a project we are proposing now, and we would like to do more work on some of the same sites (though in different areas of those sites), as well as adding new sites. We would be very interested in your feedback on how we should approach this. If the sites we worked on last round are totally ineligible (even for different locations within the sites) then we can pull them out and just concentrate on the new sites.	Invasive species control work conducted at the same general site but a different specific location would not be considered repetitive.	8/13/2014

I.A. Invasive Species Control	We previously received GLRI funding through FWS for an invasive species Hydrilla control project. EPA's FY 2014 GLRI RFA includes the following among the "Ineligible Activities" outlined on page 16: "Projects that are a repetition of Invasive Species control activities previously-funded under GLRI" are not eligible for funding." Would our project be eligible for EPA funding under the 2014 GLRI RFA?	No. If an invasive species control project has previously been funded by EPA or another federal agency using GLRI funds, it is ineligible for additional funding under this grant offering from EPA.  Please note that previously funded GLRI projects are ineligible only for EPA's grant offering this year. Ongoing projects may (or may not) continue to be eligible to receive funding by other GLRI funding streams.	8/13/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	Our focus is on the elimination of targeted coastal invasives, however I am wondering if there are priority watersheds or a priority delineation for projects addressing invasives in Michigan. For instance we have a preserve in Cass County, Michigan that is on an inland lake and has growing phragmites and glossy buckthorn populations, but is that too far removed from Lake Michigan itself?	Provided it meets the other requirements of the RFA, the project would be eligible. Geographic eligibility is described on RFA page 15. Proposed projects must ... protect, enhance, and/or restore the Great Lakes, including projects impacting connecting waterways such as Lake St. Clair and the St. Lawrence River (at or upstream from the point at which the St. Lawrence River becomes the international boundary between Canada and the United States). Pursuant to Section V.A.1 on page 28, applications may score higher if they demonstrate a clear...connection to protection and restoration of the Great Lakes themselves.	8/19/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	Our wastewater treatment facilities use the invasive form of phragmites as a part of their dewatering process. New populations of invasive phragmites have been popping up around these facilities. We plan to remove the invasive strain, replace it with an appropriate plant for dewatering and treat the small areas of spread as needed just outside the treatment facilities. Since traditional water or wastewater infrastructure is ineligible, would this project be eligible? We consider the new dewatering techniques innovative, since other wastewater facilities use the invasive strain. Our project would provide an example of a dewatering alternative that treats wastewater effectively to protect water quality, without the risk of spreading an invasive species.	The provision on ineligibility of traditional infrastructure would not render your project ineligible. Provided it meets the other requirements of the RFA, it would be eligible.	8/19/2014
I.A. Invasive Species Control	How much time and what amount should I expect to need for a \$300,000 invasive species control project for work on 50-100 acres?	Time and funding are project-specific and will also depend on the expertise of the applicant. A quality assurance project plan can be done within 90 days from award. Some applicants budget 5-10 percent of project costs for quality assurance project plan development. Examples of QA plans can be found in the appendices of GLNPO's quality management plan (plan, which can be found at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/quality/pdfs/glnpo_qmp_2008.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/quality/pdfs/glnpo_qmp_2008.pdf</a> . An example of an invasive species quality assurance project plan can be found on pages 430-443 of the GLNPO quality management plan.	8/26/2014

I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	One of the eligibility criteria is that a proposed project implement best management practices contained in a state-approved watershed management plan. There is no state-approved watershed management plan for my project area. Would this preclude funding a project under this category?	No it would not be precluded. The RFA also states that applicants can demonstrate how the project will implement best management practices and management measures contained in "... TMDL implementation plans, or in other watershed management plans that are <u>consistent with</u> the components outlined Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters..."	7/17/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Does STEPL information need to be submitted with the proposal?	No, STEPL is to be used to estimate the impact of the implemented practices and management measures.	7/17/2014

I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Some links at the bottom of RFA pages 9 and 10 do not work for me. How do I get to that information?	The links should work on your computer if you use a different browser or if you copy the address from the RFA and paste it into your browser.	7/17/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	What watershed plans meet the criteria for the Watershed Management Implementation category for the recently released GLRI RFA? Do the plans listed on the links from RFA pages 9-10 constitute an exhaustive list "approved Nine-Element Watershed Plans"? You can follow the second New York hyperlink to other pages and plans like the Great Lakes Action Agenda and the Lake Ontario Lakewide Action and Management Plan. Are these approved plans?	The links are to both approved plans and information about plans; it is not an exhaustive list of Nine Element Watershed Plans and all that are listed are not necessarily examples of Nine Element-based plans. The Great Lakes Action Agenda and the Lake Ontario Lakewide Action and Management Plan are plans are not considered to be consistent with the components outlined in EPA's Nine Elements Guidance.	7/21/2014

I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Does a plan need to be determined by EPA to be consistent with the components outlined in EPA's Nine Elements Guidance or can it be applicant determined?	The project must implement a plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters ( <a href="http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm</a> ). If there is a specific plan that you have question about, you may highlight a copy to show where you think the nine elements are met and: (i) provide the highlighted copy to <a href="mailto:hinchey.elizabeth@epa.gov">hinchey.elizabeth@epa.gov</a> and we will attempt to quickly review it to assess its consistency with the nine elements and to contact you with our assessment prior to submitting an application or (ii) attach the highlighted copy as provided in RFA Attachment I item 13 and the plan will be reviewed by EPA for consistency as part of the RFA eligibility review process.	7/21/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Is the repair and/or replacement of home sewage treatment systems an eligible project cost under the Watershed Management category? The watershed we are working in (Black River AOC, Ohio) has a great need for this and it would improve water quality significantly in many of the suburban and rural subwatersheds. The need for the HSTS is recognized in the TMDL and the Watershed Action Plan. The link to Ohio EPA's Annual Report is broken so I can't confirm if this is one of the nine elements in that plan.	The repair and/or replacement of home sewage treatment systems are NOT eligible project costs under the Watershed Management category, because they are costs that are covered under the Ohio's State Revolving Fund program (see p. 16 of the RFA). We suggest that you contact Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance staff for more information about these available programs.	7/25/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	<p>We are working on a proposal that aims to reduce the emerging problem of near shore nonpoint source pollution in Lake Michigan and its potential impact on human health by focusing on urgent watershed management implementation in the Kewaunee County, Wisconsin watershed. The recent marked increases in agricultural activities in the county coupled with increases in Concentrated Agricultural Feeding Operations (CAFOs) have resulted in high nonpoint source designations for most of Kewaunee county's rivers, posing disproportionate environmental impacts on local communities that will require urgent watershed management action.</p> <p>Given that both the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) as well as EPA have designated high nonpoint source priority rankings for the West Twin River, East Twin River, Kewaunee River, and Ahnapee River of Kewaunee County, our team we would like to make watershed management this area our central focus. Because Kewaunee County's priority nonpoint source rivers are</p>	<p>EPA Region 5 and WDNR have determined that the Kewaunee County Land and Water Resource Management Plans are not consistent with the components outlined in EPA's Nine Elements Guidance. In particular, although the "Kewaunee County Land &amp; Water Resource Management Plan" (January 1st 2010 – December 31st 2019) covers the entire county (and the land and water resources within) it does not present the information (management measures needed to address the documented water quality, etc) on a watershed basis and is considered to be jurisdictional based ( not geographically based). However, the West Twin River Watershed Plan Plans IS consistent with the components outlined in EPA's Nine Elements Guidance and projects implementing that plan could be eligible provided they meet the other requirements of the RFA.</p> <p>Please note, however, that: (i) the RFA request is for "projects to reduce nonpoint source pollution to the Great Lakes..." and that CAFOs are considered to be a point source and that (ii) "[any] activities/projects that are specifically required by a draft or</p>	7/25/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	If a single eligible agency submits more than one application for distinctively different projects, both under the category of I.B. Watershed Management Implementation and both within the same basin will the project applications be capped at a combined maximum request of \$750,000 or are they both competing with all applications submitted under that category (each eligible for consideration of a separate max request of \$750,000)? Is there preference or	A single entity may submit separate applications for separate projects for which the \$750,000 maximum is also separately applied. Each project will be separately evaluated on its own merits. There are advantages and disadvantages to consolidating the two projects.	7/25/2014

I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Can the GLRI Category I.B. Watershed Management Implementation funding support RCPP CCA projects for monitoring, education and outreach activities that are not eligible for financial assistance through NRCS programs?	Watershed management activities that are not eligible for financial assistance through NRCS programs may be eligible under the RFA PROVIDED that they implement watershed-based plans that are consistent with the components outlined in EPA's Nine Elements Guidance and that they meet the other eligibility requirements of the RFA. Note that monitoring activities are ineligible under this RFA category.	7/25/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Our collaborators in Kewaunee county have searched their digital archive and I am happy to report that we now have in our possession the actual watershed management plan for the Kewaunee River conducted with the same detailed analysis as the East Twin River Plan (presenting management measures needed to address the documented water quality, etc). Please see the attached pdf for your further consideration.	This Plan (Wisconsin Watersheds - Kewaunee River Watershed- 2011 Water Quality Management Plan Update, December 8 Working Draft 2011) IS consistent with the components outlined in EPA's Nine Elements Guidance and projects implementing that plan could be eligible provided they meet the other requirements of the RFA.	7/30/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	The Milwaukee River does not have an approved TMDL or TMDL implementation plan, nor does it have an EPA approved watershed management plan following a 319 nine-key elements plan. Is this a requirement for eligibility under GLRI grant category I.B. Watershed Management Implementation? There is an existing Water Quality Plan for the Milwaukee River that was updated in 2013 that follows the nine-key elements planning, however it is not EPA approved. It is WDNR approved.	The project must implement a plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters ( <a href="http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm</a> ). If the existing Water Quality Plan for the Milwaukee River that was updated in 2013 is consistent with those components, a project to implement that plan could be eligible. If you have question about that Plan's consistency with the nine element components, you may highlight a copy to show where you think the nine elements are met and: (i) provide the highlighted copy to <a href="mailto:hinchey.elizabeth@epa.gov">hinchey.elizabeth@epa.gov</a> and we will attempt to quickly review it to assess its consistency with the nine elements and to contact you with our assessment prior to submitting an application or (ii) attach the highlighted copy as provided in RFA Attachment I item 13 and the plan will be reviewed by EPA for consistency as part of the RFA eligibility review process.	7/30/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Water Quality Trading (WQT) is not a NPDES permit requirement, but is an option for NPDES compliance if tradable credits and a market exist that permittees could then pursue. Under Category I.B. Watershed Management is the establishment of a marketplace to facilitate WQT an eligible activity for GLRI funding?	The project could be eligible if it is implementing best management practices and management measures contained in a watershed plan consistent with the 9 elements.	7/30/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	We are a Park District that is interested in obtaining funding for a study to investigate pollution sources for Ashtabula Township Park District <a href="http://www.lakeshoreparkashtabula.org/">http://www.lakeshoreparkashtabula.org/</a> . Over the years there has been considerable pollution problems resulting in beach closures. There are a number of potential sources – runoff from waterfowl, nearby wastewater treatment facilities, homeowner septic tanks etc. programs. Please advise if a such a study is an eligible activity.	Without the specifics we don't think it would be eligible. 9 element plans are based on addressing the identified sources, this appears to be a study to identify sources. Also monitoring water quality, , which is an activity most investigations of "type" pollutant source identification rely on, is not an eligible activity.	7/30/2014

I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	I am working in an area with lots of steep slopes and lakeside development. The existing watershed management plan calls to provide education and one-on-one assistance with municipalities to revise regulations concerning steep slopes, hamlet development, green infrastructure, stream setbacks, and floodplains. Is this kind of activity eligible under the Watershed Management Implementation category?	That activity could be eligible, provided that it implements best management practices and management measures in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters and meets the other eligibility requirements of the RFA.	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Are projects in watersheds with plans, which do not address all NPS-319 a-i criteria, ineligible?	Yes	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	If monitoring is a critical component of our project, can we use non-federal funds to conduct the monitoring (match) and include it in our work plan? OR, would that make us ineligible because it is an ineligible activity?	Yes you can use non-federal funds for monitoring and not count it as match. That activity could be considered as a form of leveraging other than match. See RFA pages 17-18.	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Specific to watershed management: Would including monitoring, paid for outside of federal funds, reduce our score?	You can use non-federal funds for monitoring and not count it as match. That activity could be considered as a form of leveraging other than match. See RFA pages 17-18. That would not reduce your score.	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Can you provide examples of the types of projects that EPA is interested in under Watershed Plan Implementation? For example, streambank erosion projects, green infrastructure projects, etc.	EPA does not have a preference for a specific type of project .	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	I am not sure if project on water treatment using new technologies are eligible (i.e., during HABs events). can you clarify?	More information would be needed to respond.	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Shoreline restoration to prevent roadway oils and shoulder sediments from entering an inland lake attached by channel to Lake Michigan; is this an eligible activity?	That activity could be eligible, provided that it implements best management practices and management measures in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters and meets the other eligibility requirements of the RFA.	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Urban Green Infrastructure priority vs rural?	EPA does not have a preference for a specific type of project .	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Will projects that lower e coli levels be eligible on a Lake Erie beach?	That activity could be eligible, provided that it implements best management practices and management measures in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters and meets the other eligibility requirements of the RFA.	8/4/2014

I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Could you discuss the distinction between point and non point (for example, using cow manure at the farm versus runoff into rivers containing manure)?	<p>The term "nonpoint source" is defined to mean any source of water pollution that does not meet the legal definition of "point source" in section 502(14) of the Clean Water Act. That definition states:</p> <p>The term "point source" means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include agricultural storm water discharges and return flows from irrigated agriculture.</p>	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Must all watershed management implementation projects be located directly within the great lakes basin, or are inland lakes and waterways eligible so long as they connect to one of the great lakes?	Geographic eligibility is described on RFA page 15. Proposed projects must ... protect, enhance, and/or restore the Great Lakes, including projects impacting connecting waterways such as Lake St. Clair and the St. Lawrence River (at or upstream from the point at which the St. Lawrence River becomes the international boundary between Canada and the United States). Additional geographic requirements are specified for Categories I.B and I.C. Pursuant to Section V.A.1 on page 28, applications may score higher if they demonstrate a clear...connection to protection and restoration of the Great Lakes themselves.	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Is it possible to combine two or more plans for a watershed to assemble nine elements if no single plan qualifies as a 9-element watershed plan?	The project must implement a plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters ( <a href="http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm</a> ). Where there is a question, EPA would make a case-by-case determination regarding whether your materials constitute a plan. You may highlight a copy of your materials to show where you think the nine elements are met and: (i) provide the highlighted copy to GLRI-	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	For a Watershed Management project, can we use monitoring as method to demonstrate outcomes outputs and/or measure and track progress?	Yes, but water quality monitoring is not an eligible item for this category.	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	If the state/EPA are responsible for determining removal of BUIs and/or delisting under TMDL how can applicant declare either as an output?	State applicants can declare either as an output. Other applicants can potentially identify these outputs as logical results from their actions.	8/4/2014



I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	If your watershed is a tributary of the Great Lakes, but is disconnected by a dam, are the watershed restoration activities above the dam still eligible?	Geographic eligibility is described on RFA page 15. Proposed projects must ... protect, enhance, and/or restore the Great Lakes, including projects impacting connecting waterways such as Lake St. Clair and the St. Lawrence River (at or upstream from the point at which the St. Lawrence River becomes the international boundary between Canada and the United States). Additional geographic requirements are specified for Categories I.B and I.C. Pursuant to Section V.A.1 on page 28, applications may score higher if they demonstrate a clear...connection to protection and restoration of the Great Lakes themselves.	8/4/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	If the implementation of existing watershed management plans includes working with municipalities to integrate new zoning and green infrastructure regulations into their existing zoning regulations, would that activity be eligible?	That activity could be eligible, provided that it implements best management practices and management measures in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters and meets the other eligibility requirements of the RFA.	8/13/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Where can I find the Illinois-specific 9-element plan requirements? The RFA only leads to ambiguous pdf that doesn't outline them clearly.	The website provided for Illinois in the RFA links to the most recent report that lists completed nine element watershed plans for Illinois ( <a href="http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/watershed/reports/biannual-319/2014/march.pdf">http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/watershed/reports/biannual-319/2014/march.pdf</a> ). Also, Illinois' Guide to Watershed Action Plans describes the steps that are needed to develop a WBP and how to accomplish each step ( <a href="http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/watershed/publications/watershed-guidance.pdf">http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/watershed/publications/watershed-guidance.pdf</a> ).	8/13/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Our County Rural Wastewater District has a sanitary sewer collection system. During the watershed quality portion of the webinar, it was not clear to me whether a project I had in mind was eligible. Our collection system has the ability to serve two failing wastewater treatment package plants that currently treat wastewater from two rural housing developments. The project I was considering would direct the flow that is now going to these plants to instead go into our system. Would this project be eligible?	This project is not eligible. See page 16 of the RFA "Traditional water or wastewater infrastructure projects that are eligible for funding from: 1) a state water pollution control revolving fund established under title VI of the Clean Water Act; or 2) a state drinking water revolving loan fund established under Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. Section 300j-12)."	8/13/2014

I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	In Category IB, does EPA have a model template to be used for conservation easements?	No.	8/19/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Should the watershed management projects be focused in one location or can they be throughout the watershed?	Either could be eligible provided that they meet the eligibility requirements on page 10, including a requirement that the project will implement best management practices and management measures contained in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters.	8/19/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	I understand projects on monitoring are not eligible. But are projects on development of sensors for cyanobacteria and or cyanotoxins eligible?	Projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the RFA. A project pertaining to cyanotoxins in the Watershed Management category could only be eligible if it met the eligibility requirements on page 10, including a requirement that the project will implement best management practices and management measures contained in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters. For the Sediment Reduction category, it would need to meet the eligibility requirements on page 12, including demonstration of how the project will (i) accelerate reductions of sediment and associated nutrient loadings from specified watersheds to the respective Great Lakes and (ii) demonstrate permanency of project outputs following completion of activities.	8/19/2014

I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Are topics on detection and/or treatment of cyanotoxins eligible?	Projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the RFA. A project pertaining to cyanotoxins in the Watershed Management category could only be eligible if it met the eligibility requirements on page 10, including a requirement that the project will implement best management practices and management measures contained in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters. For the Sediment Reduction category, it would need to meet the eligibility requirements on page 12, including demonstration of how the project will (i) accelerate reductions of sediment and associated nutrient loadings from specified watersheds to the respective Great Lakes and (ii) demonstrate permanency of project outputs following completion of activities.	8/19/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Are projects on the treatment of algal toxins using emerging technologies (drinking water applications) eligible?	Projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the RFA. A project pertaining to cyanotoxins in the Watershed Management category could only be eligible if it met the eligibility requirements on page 10, including a requirement that the project will implement best management practices and management measures contained in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters. For the Sediment Reduction category, it would need to meet the eligibility requirements on page 12, including demonstration of how the project will (i) accelerate reductions of sediment and associated nutrient loadings from specified watersheds to the respective Great Lakes and (ii) demonstrate permanency of project outputs following completion of activities.	8/19/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Is prevention in an urban development site ineligible?	Such a project could be eligible if it met the eligibility requirements on page 10, including a requirement that the project will implement best management practices and management measures contained in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters.	8/19/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Are waterways outside of the Maumee River watershed but inside the Maumee Area of Concern eligible? There are rivers in the Maumee AOC that do not connect to Maumee River.	Such a project could be eligible if it met the eligibility requirements on page 10, including a requirement that the project will implement best management practices and management measures contained in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters.	8/19/2014

I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Is a watershed management implementation project eligible in watersheds without a 9-element watershed plan? In other words, does not having a 9-element watershed plan make projects in that watershed ineligible?	To be eligible in this category, the project must implement a plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters ( <a href="http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm</a> ). The plan need not be approved, but if there is no plan that is consistent with the components outlined in this handbook, then projects are not eligible.	8/19/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	On page 9, it states that projects in category B must be projects implementing watershed-based plans that are consistent with the components outlined in EPA's Nine Elements Guidance. For Michigan projects, it provides a link that has NPS approved and pending watershed plans: <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-nps-approved-watershed-plans_431188_7.pdf">http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-nps-approved-watershed-plans_431188_7.pdf</a> It is unclear if the watershed plans need to be both 319 and CMI approved or can just be CMI approved.	The project must implement a plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters ( <a href="http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm</a> ). Where there is a question, EPA would make a case-by-case determination regarding whether your materials constitute a plan. You may highlight a copy of your materials to show where you think the nine elements are met and: (i) provide the highlighted copy to GLRI-RFA@epa.gov and we will attempt to quickly review it to assess its consistency with the nine elements and to contact you with our assessment prior to submitting an application or (ii) attach the highlighted copy as provided in RFA Attachment I item 13 and it will be reviewed by EPA for consistency as part of the RFA eligibility review process.	8/19/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	We have one, soon to be two, watershed restoration plans that have been reviewed by EPA and determined to meet the Nine Elements. We would like to create a grants program to help fund the implementation of the most critical projects identified in the plans. Would such a grants program, administered by our organization, be eligible?	That activity could be eligible, provided that it implements best management practices and management measures in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters and meets the other eligibility requirements of the RFA.	8/19/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	In category 1B, for projects that include conservation easements, will the grant fund surveys, closing costs, and administrative costs associated with those easements?	Costs of easements, including costs associated with their acquisition are only allowable with prior approval from EPA. To obtain prior approval, the applicant must itemize all proposed costs of easements and their acquisition costs in detail in their budget narrative. Approval will be provided at issuance of the award as described on page 33 of the RFA. If these costs are not described in the application at the time of award, the applicant would need to submit a formal request for approval to their Project Officer prior to incurring those costs.	8/26/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Does EPA have a stated preference of using plants vs plugs in restoration project proposals?	No, EPA does not have a preference on use of plants vs plugs.	8/26/2014
I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	What budget category do easements go in?	Costs associated with easements go in the "Other" budget category.	8/26/2014

I.B. Watershed Management Implementation	Can this project be a part of the development of a lakeside development in the south side of Chicago. This would be part of a bigger long term project, but would still try to better the biotic integrity of the Great Lakes.	This project could be eligible. Projects in the Watershed Management category could only be eligible if it met the eligibility requirements on page 10, including a requirement that the project will implement best management practices and management measures contained in a watershed management plan that is consistent with the components outlined in Section 2.6 of EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters.	8/26/2014
I.C. Sediment Reduction Projects in Priority Watersheds	Must the specific ditch and stream lengths be known at proposal submission?	Exact stream lengths are design considerations, and do not need to be known at the time of application. However, approximate lengths should be known in order to provide quantified output and outcome targets.	8/13/2014
I.C. Sediment Reduction Projects in Priority Watersheds	In Category C, must all cooperative agreements include implementation? Or could one propose such a team/agreement that focuses on non-implementation efforts such as design, technology, a gameplan, etc?	Project design can be a component of a project; however, to be eligible, applications must demonstrate how the project will (i) accelerate reductions of sediment and associated nutrient loadings from specified watersheds to the respective Great Lakes and (ii) demonstrate permanency of project outputs following completion of activities. Applicants must also demonstrate how the proposed project will achieve one or more of the reduction or improvement outcomes on page 13 of the RFA.	8/13/2014
I.C. Sediment Reduction Projects in Priority Watersheds	Would a green infrastructure project (in the Lower Fox watershed) be potentially eligible under this category?	This project could be eligible in the Sediment category if the project implementation is not conducted by a municipality directly located on the shore of a Great Lakes or a Great Lakes connecting channel.	8/13/2014
I.C. Sediment Reduction Projects in Priority Watersheds	Can a sediment reduction program that is part of a watershed management plan be eligible?	Yes.	8/13/2014

I.C. Sediment Reduction Projects in Priority Watersheds	Can additional field conservation practices and controlled drainage be included as part of a I. C project that includes two-stage ditches and wetlands?	Additional supporting practices and/or controlled drainage can be included in a proposed project to the extent they work in concert with all project activities to achieve applicable outputs and outcomes listed on page 13 of the RFA.	8/13/2014
I.C. Sediment Reduction Projects in Priority Watersheds	How do you define extreme storm events?	An out-of-the-ordinary storm event that a reasonable person with knowledge of typical conditions of the specific location of the project would describe as "extreme" would be considered to be an "extreme storm event." A storm that meets the 25-year, 24-hour storm event threshold (the maximum 24-hour precipitation event with a probable recurrence interval of once in 25 years, as defined by the National Weather Service) would generally be characterized as extreme.	8/13/2014
I.C. Sediment Reduction Projects in Priority Watersheds	Can incentive payments to farmers be an allowed expense for the Sediment Reduction category? For example, if another funding source was paying farmers \$100/acre for grassed waterways and we wanted to give an extra \$20/acre for these practices using GLRI funds would this be allowed?	In some cases, such incentive payments could be an allowed expense provided the project met the requirements of the RFA (see RFA page 12). However, if the other payments were funded through a federal program that imposed a statutory limit, GLRI funds should not be used to get around the limit.	8/26/2014
Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	The applicant is a unit of a university. Assuming federal awards similar in size and scope to the proposed project: a. Must the lead staff person in the proposal have managed the past project in order for it to be considered in this section? b. Must the past project have been within the same university unit in order for it to be considered?	a. No.  b. No. Each project is ultimately the responsibility of the recipient organization, not an individual.	7/17/2014
Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	We have 1 very relevant past project, should we list other projects too even if their size/scope/relevance isn't as strong?	You should list them so long as they are "similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project." If the other past projects are GLRI projects, list them.	7/17/2014
Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	What type of documentation is acceptable regarding our quarterly rate of expenditures on 2010-2013 GLRI awards? Official documents from the school or tables we create?	Either is acceptable.	7/17/2014
Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	Do you want past performance of GLRI awards only directly from EPA or do you also want past performance on GLRI awards directly from other federal agencies and from other prime awardees?	EPA will consider past performance on any federal award similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project.	7/17/2014